

**South Dakota Department of Corrections Juvenile Division**  
**Semi-Annual Report "Investigation Process Summary"**  
**Allegations of Abuse & Neglect in private care facilities**  
**January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008**

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has specific policy and procedure related to the investigation of abuse and neglect of youth in our custody. All DOC employees are mandated reporters, which requires them to report any incident of abuse and neglect that they may observe, or have knowledge of, including those instances that happen outside the scope of their employment with the DOC.

Facilities with-in the state of South Dakota are licensed by the Department of Social Services (DSS), which is the agency that has statutory authority to conduct investigations related to abuse and neglect. The staff who work at the in-state facilities are mandated reporters as well, and are required by the licensing agency to report all instances of abuse and neglect to the South Dakota Department of Social Services. If an incident involves criminal action, DSS makes the determination to refer to local law enforcement for investigation.

All facilities that the DOC contracts with outside of South Dakota are licensed by a state agency within the state in which the facility is located. The licensing agency provides oversight, including the authority to conduct investigations involving abuse and neglect. As part of our monitoring of out of state facilities, we conduct annual facility audits, which includes contacting the appropriate licensing agency. Finally, the Department of Corrections requires all contracted facilities through a provider agreement to maintain and adhere to all current licensing standards, and all related laws while providing services to youth referred by the Department of Corrections.